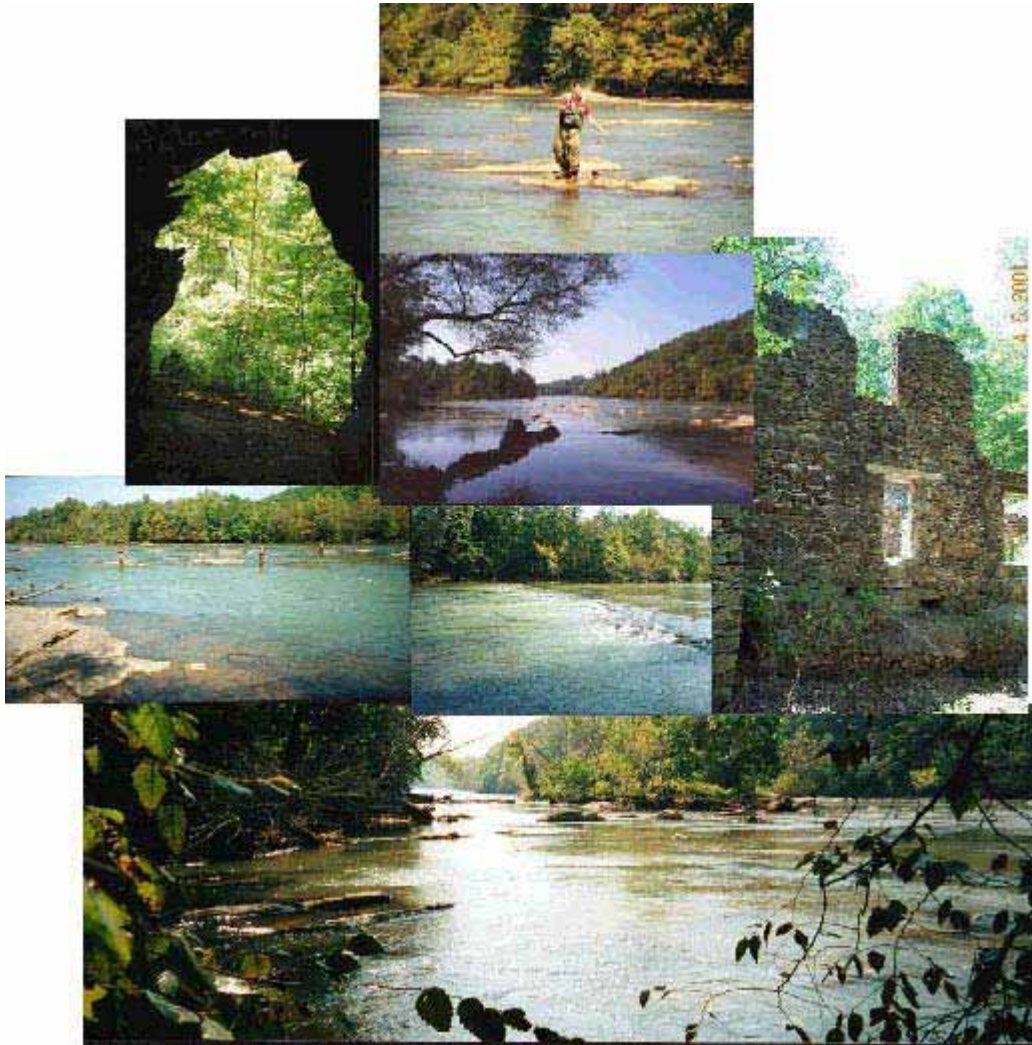


ALTERNATIVES



ALTERNATIVES

This section describes each management prescription developed for the park. Each alternative combines several management prescriptions, and the locations where the prescriptions are applied vary across alternatives.

The subsection “Formulation of Alternatives” describes how the alternatives were created based on scoping. Following their initial definition, the development of the alternatives was a two-step process.

The National Park Service identified management prescriptions that potentially were applicable to the park. Each management prescription was defined by desired visitor experiences and resource conditions. This helped establish the kinds of activities or facilities within each prescription that would achieve those targeted conditions.

The management prescriptions were then mapped to specific areas of the park to create the three action alternatives that are evaluated in the general management plan and environmental impact statement.

POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS

This section defines all management prescriptions that could be applied to the park under any of the alternatives. The management prescriptions define the desired future resource conditions and visitor experiences, including the appropriate kinds and levels of management and use.

A management prescription is an approach for administering or treating the resources or uses of a specified area, based on desired outcomes. Management prescriptions include target goals or objectives for one or more resources and/or visitor experiences that are present within the prescription area. The alternatives for the park consist of multiple zones with different management prescriptions. Together, the management prescriptions within an alternative meet all goals of the park.

Different physical, biological, and social conditions are emphasized in each zone. The factors that define each management prescription are the:

Desired visitor experience

Desired natural and cultural resource conditions

These factors then indicate the types of activities or facilities that are appropriate within the zone. Regardless of the target visitor experience or resource condition, all management prescriptions conform to park-specific purpose, significance, and mission goals and to the servicewide mandates and policies. For example, an archeological site would be protected, regardless of whether it occurs in any given zone. However, the use of that site for educational purposes could vary, depending on the management prescription assigned to the area where the resource is located.

The five management prescriptions identified as potentially applicable to the park are described below and summarized in Table 1. The prescriptions emphasize desired conditions and visitor experiences for forests, cultural resources, recreation areas, visitor facilities, and administration and operations areas. The following is a summary of each prescription developed during the completion of this general management planning effort for the park.

DEVELOPED ZONE

The developed zone would provide the highest level of recreational and educational facilities for visitors. This zone would be characterized by a relatively high density of people in a relatively urbanized setting. The opportunity for solitude would be low, but the potential for educational opportunities would be high. This area would be characterized by buildings, roads, parking lots, and paved trails.



*Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Draft General Management Plan/EIS*

Table 1: Summary of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Management Prescriptions

Category	Developed Zone	Natural Area Recreation Zone	Urban Primitive Zone	Pristine River Zone	Cultural Resource Zone
Visitor Experience					
Degree of isolation	Low	Moderate	High	High	Variable according to location
Feeling of closeness to nature	Low	Low/moderate	High	High	Variable according to location
Opportunity to experience solitude/tranquility	Low	Moderate	High	High	Variable according to location
Degree of challenge/risk	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High degree of challenge and risk, self reliance	Low
Degree of encounters with other visitors	High	Moderate to High	Low	Low or infrequent rate due to river access only (limited access policy)	Moderate
Knowledge and use of outdoor recreation skills	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	Low
Diversity of experience	High	High	High	High	Low
Degree of facilitation (education/outreach)	High	Moderate	Low	Low	High
Proximity to basic facilities	High	Moderate	Low	Low	Low
Safety risk	Low/very safe area	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Low



Table 1: Summary of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Management Prescriptions

Category	Developed Zone	Natural Area Recreation Zone	Urban Primitive Zone	Pristine River Zone	Cultural Resource Zone
Access	Highly accessible	Moderate to High	Low	Low River viewshed/access only/ river- based activities only; no crafts or vehicles or modes of transport off- river.	High
Resource Condition or Character					
Level of resource and visitor management required to protect resources and provide safety	High level of management required for facilities and maintenance	Intensely managed zone to ensure resource protection and public safety Moderate to high level of staff presence/activity Moderate to high level of management required	Moderate level of both resource and visitor protection required	High level of management required	High
Park Service tolerance for resource degradation	Low tolerance for resource degradation in this zone Increased built environment High level of impervious space/developed space	Natural environment modified for essential visitor and park operation needs, but changes would harmonize with the natural environment Low tolerance for natural resource degradation.	Low	Zero tolerance for degradation	Low



*Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Draft General Management Plan/EIS*

Table 1: Summary of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Management Prescriptions

Category	Developed Zone	Natural Area Recreation Zone	Urban Primitive Zone	Pristine River Zone	Cultural Resource Zone
Resource Condition or Character (Continued)					
Character of natural and cultural resources (pristine, developed, other categories)	Only highly localized development in this zone. Park Service would have a low tolerance for natural or cultural resource alteration	Areas predominantly natural but sights and sounds of people clearly evident Semi- built environment Moderate level of impervious space/developed space	High	Natural Appearing Landscape “Pristine- like”	Managed for maintaining quality of cultural resources
Types of Activities					
Day hiking	Appropriate	Appropriate	Day hiking would be appropriate on “primitive” trails Footpaths/limited trails	No trails	Appropriate
Biking	Appropriate	Appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate
Picnicking	Appropriate	Appropriate	Not appropriate	Hikers could eat lunch in this zone, but no picnic tables or related facilities would be placed in these areas	Not appropriate
Nature observation	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate, but this zone would be primarily water oriented	Wildlife sanctuary	Appropriate



Table 1: Summary of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Management Prescriptions

Category	Developed Zone	Natural Area Recreation Zone	Urban Primitive Zone	Pristine River Zone	Cultural Resource Zone
Types of Activities (Continued)					
Fishing	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate from bank or river	Fishing from the river would be the only type of fishing allowed in this zone (no fishing from the bank)	Not Appropriate
Equestrian	Appropriate	Existing trails only	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate
Scientific research	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate, but limited activities only	Appropriate
Canoeing, rafting, kayaking	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate	No crafts or vehicles or modes of transport off- river.	Appropriate in vicinity of resource
Habitat restoration	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate	Appropriate Habitat might also be altered to maintain character and quality of cultural resource. This would include use of non- native vegetation in some instances, potentially.
Types of Facilities					
Trails	Appropriate	No paved trails; natural unpaved trails only	Primitive trails appropriate Foot paths/limited trails	Not appropriate	Appropriate



*Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area
Draft General Management Plan/EIS*

Table 1: Summary of Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area Management Prescriptions

Category	Developed Zone	Natural Area Recreation Zone	Urban Primitive Zone	Pristine River Zone	Cultural Resource Zone
Types of Facilities (Continued)					
Visitor and Administrative Facilities	Appropriate	Kiosks, rain shelters and similar low level facilities are appropriate; no large or major facilities are appropriate; limited concession facilities allowed	Not appropriate	Not appropriate No developed conditions or man-made facilities.	Appropriate
Parking areas	Appropriate	Appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate
Picnic areas	Appropriate	Appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate
Motorized Vessels (Personalized watercraft are banned within the park)	Appropriate	Appropriate with established limits	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate
Restrooms	Appropriate	Appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Appropriate
Roads	Appropriate	Limited access roads	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate
Bridges	Appropriate	Foot bridges appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate
Kiosks	Appropriate	Appropriate	Not appropriate	Not appropriate	Appropriate

Under 36 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS 1.4, vessels are defined as every type or description of craft, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, including a buoyant device permitting or capable of free flotation

“Appropriate” is defined as those visitor experiences, resource conditions and types of activities acceptable given conditions within the zone.



Visitor Experience

In this zone, visitors would have convenient inter-modal access to public park buildings and facilities and ample opportunity for social experiences, with a high probability of encountering other visitors or park staff. The developed zone would act as an organizing hub for core administration, transportation, information, and facilities. Visitors of all ages and athletic ability would be able to use outdoor skills and experience introductory- level park adventure and education. Facilities would provide a strategically attractive option for users to fulfill short park visits.

In the park's developed zone, visitors would have little need to physically exert themselves or use outdoor skills, and opportunities for adventure would not be important. Visitors would not have to make a long time commitment to see the area.

Resource Condition or Character

Resources in the developed zone may be modified for visitor and park operational needs. Visitors and facilities would be intensively managed for resource protection and visitor safety. These changes would be instituted in a manner harmonious with the natural environment ("green" engineering principals). The developed zone would thus consist of a semi- built environment with moderate levels of impervious surface and space and a moderate amount of developed areas for park facilities. The area would be predominantly natural, but the sights and sounds of people would be clearly evident as visitors experience the park.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities

A wide variety of activities would be allowed in the developed zone. Appropriate activities would include day hiking, off- road and street biking, horseback riding, jogging, picnicking, nature and cultural resource observation, interpretative activities, fishing, canoeing, rafting, kayaking, and use of motorized vessels.

Types of acceptable facilities in this zone would include trails, visitor centers, administrative facilities, parking areas, scientific research areas, rest-

rooms, roads and bridges, kiosks, and interpretive centers.

NATURAL AREA RECREATION ZONE

The concept behind this zone is to allow certain types of active recreation in a relatively undisturbed natural environment. The number of visitors in this zone would be relatively high, so the opportunity for experiencing solitude would be moderate as compared with the urban primitive zone. Unpaved trails would be appropriate in this zone, as would activities such as off- road bicycling.

Visitor Experience

This zone would be essentially natural, but would experience a relatively high amount of visitor use. At certain times of day or season, opportunities for solitude would occur, but in general the probability of encountering other visitors would be high. The degree of isolation and feeling of closeness to nature would be relatively moderate, limited by the presence of other people. The outdoor challenge for visitors in this zone would be greater than in the developed zone. Access to this zone would be relatively easy. A high diversity of experiences would be possible in this zone, with a moderate amount of facilitation by the National Park Service.

Resource Condition or Character

This zone would require a moderate to high degree of management to protect visitors and resources within this zone because of the large numbers of users in a natural setting. Some portions of the natural environment could be modified for trails and other uses, but the overall setting would consist of natural habitats. There would be a low tolerance for natural resource degradation, and resources would be managed to maintain natural conditions free of exotic vegetation to the extent practicable. Any trails or other facilities would harmonize with the natural environment. The sights and sounds of people would be clearly evident.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities

A wide variety of activities would be allowed in the natural area recreation zone, but with specific



restrictions. Appropriate activities would include day hiking, off- road and street biking, picnicking, nature observation, interpretative activities, scientific research, fishing, canoeing, rafting, and kayaking. Use of motorized vessels would be allowed with certain restrictions. Unpaved trails would be designed to accommodate a variety of exercise pursuits that may vary from activities on foot to those on bicycle and horseback, however equestrian trails would be developed. Facilities in this zone would be minimal to support the activities described above, including restrooms, kiosks, rain shelters, and picnic tables.

URBAN PRIMITIVE ZONE

The urban primitive zone would provide a relatively undisturbed environment that the visitor interested in nature and natural settings could enjoy. Few people would be encountered in this zone, but biking and boating would be appropriate activities. Unpaved trails would be appropriate. The concept of this zone is to allow visitors to experience a relatively natural environment with a relatively low probability of encountering many people during a given visit to the park.

Visitor Experience

In the park's urban primitive zone, opportunities for closeness to nature, tranquility, and the application of outdoor skills would be common. The level of encounters with other visitors and staff would be low. Visitors would need an average degree of outdoor skills and would employ a moderate variety of these types of skills during their stay in the park. This zone would feel farther away from comforts and conveniences than the developed zone. Visitors would be able to have a large variety of outdoor experiences.

Resource Condition or Character

A moderate to high level of management would be provided for resource protection and visitor safety in the urban primitive zone. National Park Service tolerance for resource degradation due to visitor use in this zone would be very low. Habitats would be restored and maintained in as natural a condition as possible. Subtle onsite controls and restrictions could be present, such as trail markers or

restrictions on off- trail use. The area would be predominantly natural, and the sights and sounds of people would be infrequent.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities

A limited variety of experiences would occur in the urban primitive zone. Appropriate activities would include day hiking on primitive trails only, nature observation, interpretative activities, fishing, scientific research, canoeing, rafting, and kayaking.

PRISTINE RIVER ZONE

The concept behind this zone is to provide visitors with an experience as close to a natural undisturbed river corridor as possible. Trails would not be allowed in the core of this area, and access would primarily be by boat. In recognition of the fact that the park is located in a rapidly developing corridor, this zone is expected to be relatively limited in extent. As the areas surrounding the park develop, encroachment on this zone may occur. This area would provide a high degree of solitude and enable visitors to appreciate the natural values of the Chattahoochee River environment.

Visitor Experience

This would be a special limited access part of the park that would allow visitors to float down a relatively undisturbed section of the Chattahoochee River. This area would allow visitors to feel very close to nature, even in an urban setting. This would require strict preservation of a portion of the river corridor habitats on both sides of the river, so that modern development would not be noticeable in the river viewshed wherever possible; thus, the degree of isolation would be very high. This zone would provide a good opportunity to experience solitude and tranquility in an urban setting, which would be a highly valued experience for many. The degree of challenge or risk would be high since no facilities and few park staff would be present, and the visitor would need to know how to apply outdoor skills. Visitors would therefore need a high degree of self- reliance. The possibility of encountering other visitors would be lower in this zone compared to others.

Resource Condition or Character

This zone would be restored to and maintained at its natural state to the extent practicable. In an urban park, this translates into a relatively high degree of management for exotic species of plants and a high degree of protection of the resources from degradation by human uses. There would be zero tolerance for resource degradation in this zone. This zone would be managed to be as “pristine-like” as possible.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities

The types of allowable experiences in this zone would include nature observations, limited river-based interpretative activities, use of non-motorized vessels, and fishing from the river only. Viewing would be allowed only from the river. Boat take-outs and put-ins would be allowed above and below this zone. Trails would only occur along the perimeter of this zone, away from the river. No constructed facilities of any type would be appropriate in this zone.

CULTURAL RESOURCE ZONE

This zone was established with the specific goal of protecting cultural resources within the park, while allowing the public to enjoy and understand the value of these resources. The number of visitors to cultural resource zones could be high, depending on the type of resource. Opportunity for solitude and enjoyment of the natural environment would be lower in this zone.

Visitor Experience

This zone would be a clearly defined area that includes archeological or historic resources. This zone could include individual sites already listed on the National Register of Historic Places or, in the future, could include formally designated cultural landscapes. Limited but relatively easy access would be provided for visitors to observe and learn about the resources, but the primary objective would be to protect the resource and to maintain its character. Additional goals would be to rehabilitate resources according to National Park Service guidelines and to protect the rehabilitated resource in the future.

This zone would be managed to restore features that were originally associated with the resource. For example, this might require habitat manipulation to achieve similar plant communities that were present historically. However, development of park facilities in this zone would be limited to protect the historical or archeological resources and to provide for an optimal visitor experience. Natural resources would be protected where consistent with cultural resource values.

The probability of encountering other visitors would be moderate. The visitor would experience a variable degree of isolation and feeling of closeness to nature, depending on where the resource is located. The outdoor challenge for a visitor in this zone would be low.

Resource Condition or Character

This zone would require a high degree of management to protect visitors and resources because of the potentially high numbers of users in the vicinity of identified and highly sensitive cultural resources. The natural community could be altered to the degree necessary to restore or maintain the character of identified cultural resources.

Some portions of the natural environment within this zone could be modified for trails and other uses that could include impervious surfaces. Any trails or other facilities would harmonize with the cultural and natural environment where practical. The sights and sounds of people would be clearly evident, but variable.

Appropriate Kinds of Activities or Facilities

A more limited variety of activities would be allowed in this zone in order to protect identified cultural resources and values. Appropriate kinds of experiences would include day hiking, nature observation, interpretative activities, scientific research, canoeing, rafting, kayaking, and use of non-motorized vessels. Facilities in this zone would include trails, restrooms, kiosks, and opportunities for interpretive activities. All facilities and uses within this zone would be consistent with the inherent cultural resource values.



FORMULATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The following four alternatives are considered in the general management plan:

- Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative
- Focus on Solitude Alternative
- Centralized Access Alternative
- Expanded Use Alternative

The management alternatives in this general management plan have been developed according to guidelines provided in *Director's Order No. 12*. The three action alternatives embody the range of what the public and the National Park Service want to see accomplished with regard to visitor experience, natural resource conditions, and cultural resource conditions. They are based on outcomes, or actual conditions on the ground, as expressed by the management prescriptions. Implementation of any of the management alternatives would be allowable under the existing laws, regulations, policies, and mandates of the National Park Service. The No Action Alternative, which is defined as continuing the current park management practices into the future, is provided in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act guidelines.

The following is a summary of the detailed steps used to develop the alternatives:

Written public comments were received at six separate meetings held in each of the four counties that encompass the park and two local cities in the project area during the fall of 2000. All public meetings were announced in the newspaper and through posting in area libraries and other public places. The public submitted comment cards that were provided by the National Park Service for collecting comments. Over 200 written comments were received.

Comments were initially sorted by topic; the following issue categories resulted: (1) Access, (2) Facility Needs, (3) Ecology, (4) Impacts, (5) Use, (6) Boundaries, (7) Trails, (8) Outreach, (9) Private Property, (10) Transit, (11) Fisheries/Fishing, (12) Enforcement, and (13) Restoration.

The organized comments were reviewed by the National Park Service planning team, then further sorted into the following categories as per the requirements of National Park Service planning guidelines: (1) things that cannot be done because they are inconsistent with existing laws or National Park Service policies; (2) actions that must be done because they are mandated by existing laws, regulations, policies, or mandates; (3) interests or concerns that have been raised and that are appropriate to consider in a general management plan; and (4) actions that are more appropriately addressed by other types of plans, such as an implementation plan.

A set of decision points was developed from the smaller set of comments carried forth for consideration in the general management plan. Decision points are generalized statements that describe a range of possible future conditions in the park.

The resources within the park that are at stake and which could be impacted by implementation of a general management plan alternative were identified.

Resource values potentially at stake were identified, and a determination regarding whether they could be impacted was made. If the answer was yes, then these were carried forward into the list of impact topics to be considered in this document. Topics that were not determined to be affected would not be carried forward.

This information was used to develop a range of desired future conditions, or prescriptions, for the park. These were developed without mapping or relating the prescriptions to features on the ground in the park.

A set of management alternatives was then developed by applying the prescriptions to zones on a map.

The draft management alternatives were tested to make sure there were clearly defined differences as required by the National Environmental Policy Act and National Park Service Management Policies 2001 (NPS 2000c). A set of final management alternatives was developed in a series of workshops held by the planning team.

The draft management alternatives were then applied to zones on maps as National Environmental Policy Act alternatives. One map was created for each management alternative. The no action alternative was also mapped using the information contained in the previous general management plan and environmental impact statement published in 1989.

The formalized description of the management alternatives as developed and adopted during the National Park Service planning process is described in the paragraphs that follow. Each management alternative takes into consideration National Park Service mandates as well as laws and policies, and provides for appropriate levels of protection of the resources in accordance with these laws and policies. The planning team followed this premise during the development of each alternative.

CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT OR NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

National Environmental Policy Act guidelines require an assessment of the impacts of the No Action Alternative, which is defined as continuing the current park management practices into the future. Current management practices, policies, or park programs—such as maintenance, law enforcement, and operational practices—would continue to be implemented with no major changes. Current resources management programming would remain unchanged from the present level. Such programming includes preserving historic ruins, mills, archaeological resources, and wetlands; removing exotic species; river bank preservation; and water quality monitoring.

Visitor services such as environmental education, search and rescue, interpretation (on and off site), concessions, facility planning and maintenance (restrooms/ water fountains), and access to the river would remain unchanged. Visitors would have a wide variety of experiences in the park, such as hiking, fishing, and boating. The goal would be to protect resources through regulatory compliance and National Park Service policies.

The strategy of no action would provide limited development, principally to open new locations at the request of local governments and stakeholders on their terms but in compliance with National Park Service mandates for environmental protection; cultural, historic and natural preservation; recreation; and education. However, the park is currently not in full compliance with all of these requirements. Continuation of past practices would therefore imply that the park would continue to be out of compliance.

The Continue Current Management/No Action Alternative map shows the park as it now exists.

FOCUS ON SOLITUDE ALTERNATIVE

This alternative would implement management programs that would minimize development in the park and maximize the opportunity for visitors to experience solitude in natural settings. This approach would involve reducing or minimizing recreational sites and facilities within the newly acquired areas of the park, but would allow continued use of the existing facilities in the original named units to adhere to present practices. Some areas subject to heavy use would be allowed to continue in this manner, with the option to improve conditions through various means; for example, by changing visitor use patterns to mitigate potentially adverse impacts on natural and cultural resources. Newly acquired areas would be managed to provide maximum resource protection and solitude for visitors. The focus on solitude in the newly acquired areas would redirect visitation initiatives to having an experience in a relatively natural area, create sanctuary locations along the river, and insulate visitors from the urban conditions that surround the park.

As a rapidly expanding city of the 1990s, Atlanta has been highly successful in developing commerce, business, and growth, but has not been as effective at controlling nonpoint sources of water pollution, maintaining air quality, and providing a suitable amount of park space to serve the expanding communities. Recognizing the crowded urban environment surrounding the park, this alternative offers a respite from active lifestyles in the area.



Not unexpectedly, solitude is listed as the most desired visitor experience in the 1989 and 1994 visitor surveys for the park. Visitors are predominantly seeking a peaceful natural setting for observing wildlife, forests, the river, cultural and historic scenes. This alternative would provide for this experience in newly acquired portions of the park as well as in those areas of the park where this is currently possible.

Under this alternative, visitors would experience the natural environment wherever feasible. This would be provided through a system of unpaved walking trails, primitive areas of beauty, and locations along the riverbanks defined as pristine river zones allowing no structures of any kind and only limited trails located away from the river. Areas designated as pristine river zones could be viewed from the river in non-motorized vessels. Trail access would, however, be provided in other areas of the park under other planning prescriptions. These areas would provide visitors with solitude during day hikes.

This alternative emphasizes planning representative of “un” development, in that any construction of park facilities that violates minimum standards for preservation of natural habitat, aesthetic beauty, and cultural and historical resources would be inappropriate. The basis for this alternative is that the park corridor along the Chattahoochee River would be a green buffer or oasis from the busy life of urban Atlanta.

This alternative would allow only minimal growth within park boundaries; the majority of new facilities would be built outside the park. Certain targeted locations within the existing park framework could also be returned to a natural state. Newly acquired additions, as authorized by Congress along the Chattahoochee River corridor, would remain in the more natural state, with unpaved trails only. Unpaved trails would provide internal linkages to various existing facilities and gateways within the park. River use would be encouraged through canoes, rafts, and non-gas-motorized vessels, and recreation opportunities such as fishing, bird watching, research, education, and preservation would be emphasized. No new paved roads would be built under this alternative.

In this alternative, visitors would receive a quality experience in the wide variety of environments available in the park, with an emphasis on environmental education. The visitors experience would be highly facilitated through learning. Targeted facilities within existing developed areas would be restored to a more natural condition. For example, parking lots and buildings would be removed in select areas.

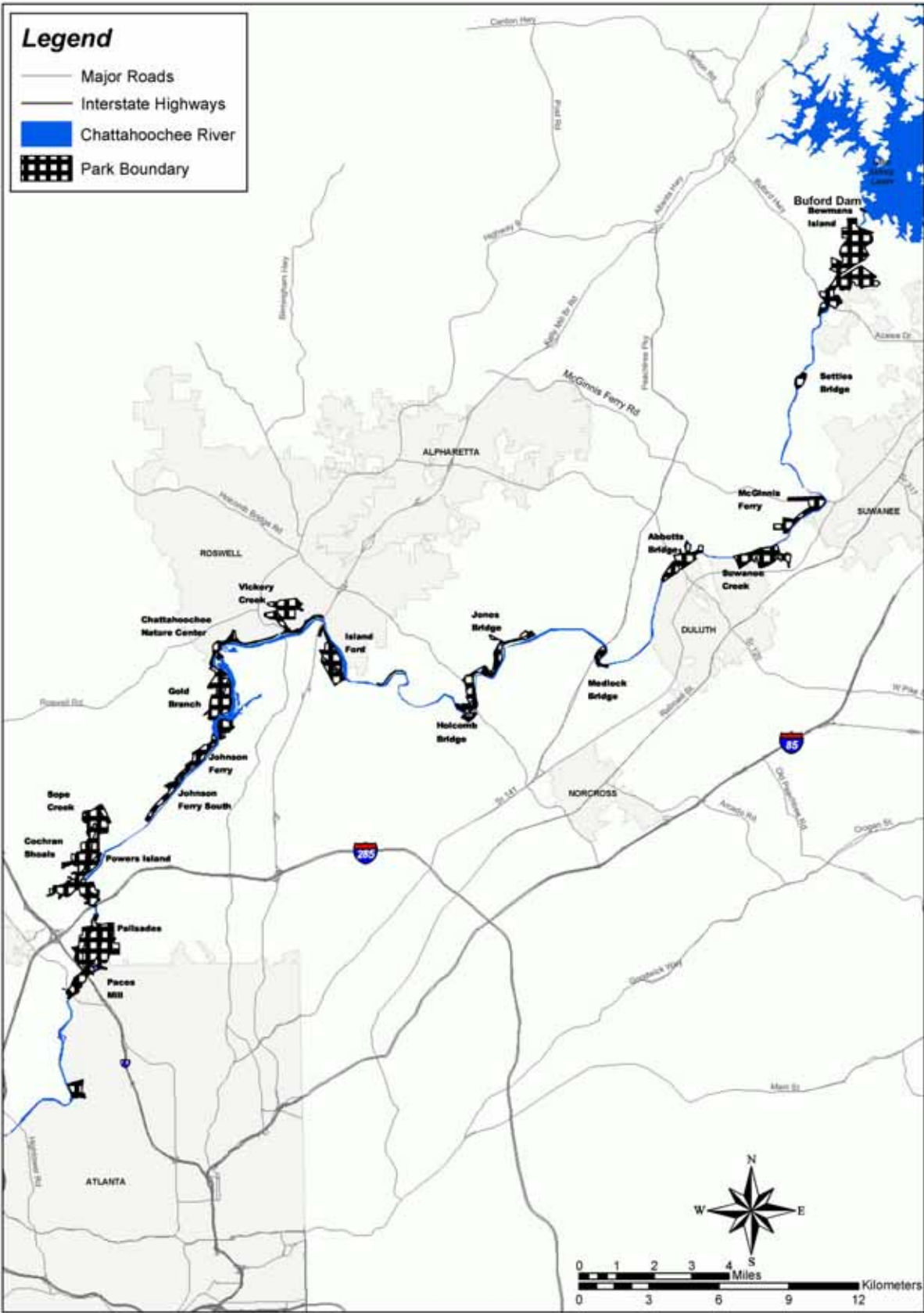
Parcels being added to the park under the newly expanded boundaries would remain in, or be restored to, a largely natural state. Areas with significant cultural resources would be managed to protect values in accordance with National Register standards. Limited facilities would be added, for example, small gravel parking lots, primitive trails, and interpretive signage.

Newly acquired areas of the park would be managed to provide visitors a relatively high degree of solitude in a natural setting within the constraints imposed by the urbanized nature of the surrounding area. The Focus on Solitude Alternative map shows the distribution of zones under this alternative.

CENTRALIZED ACCESS - THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

In this alternative, visitors would be drawn toward a system of hubs in which administrative, commercial, and interpretive facilities are located. Hubs, at a minimum, would provide visitor information, rest rooms, parking lot and roads, trail head, and river access. Trailheads and parking lots would be minimized outside hubs. The hubs would be placed at strategic locations along the 48-mile-long park to optimize visitor experience and understanding.

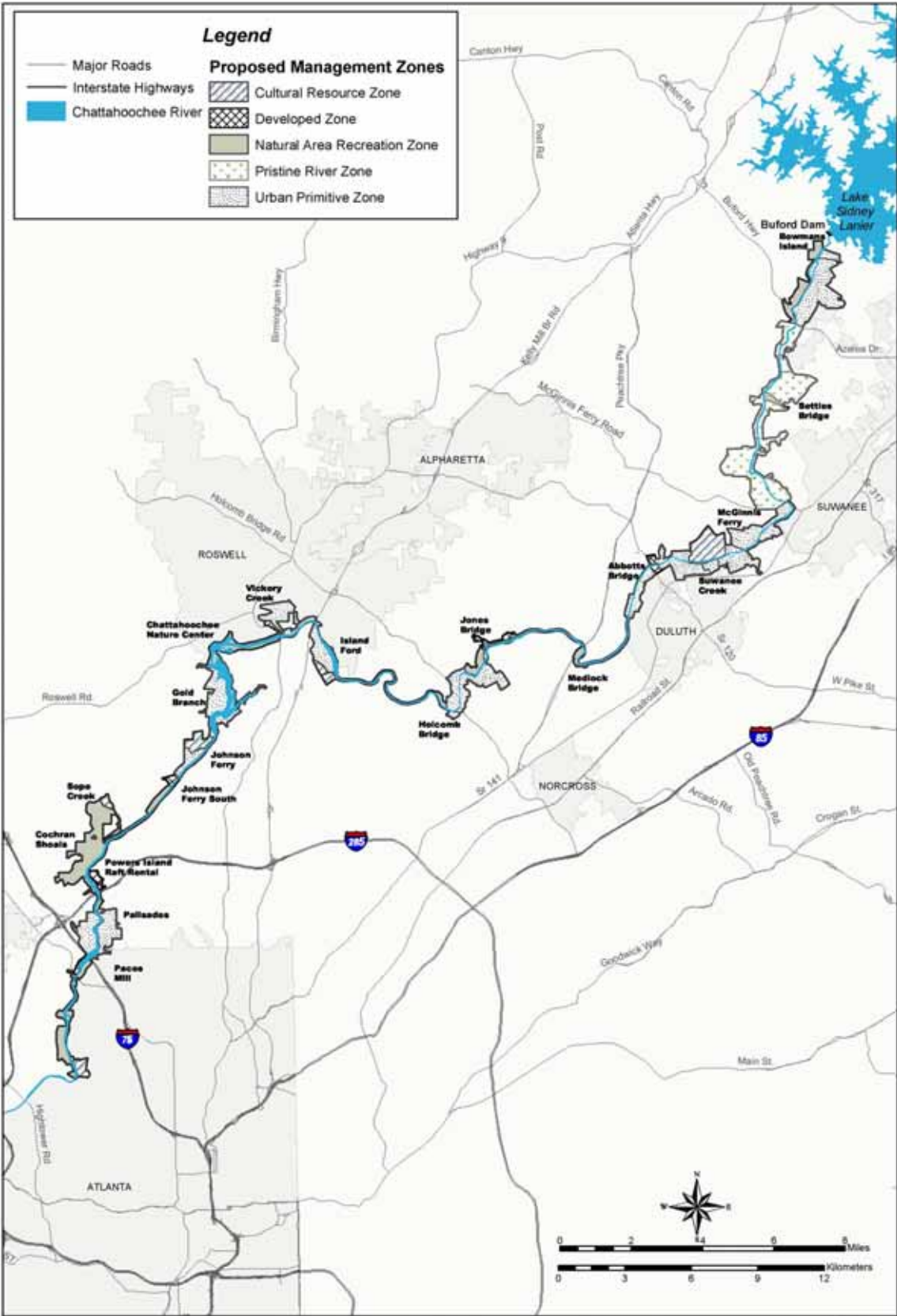
Visitor experience would focus around the interpretive activities and other facilities available in the hubs. Visitors, in lower numbers, could enjoy the extensive natural habitats and cultural resources in the undeveloped portions of the park, where activities would be focused on achieving solitude in an urban environment.



Continue Current Management/No Action Alternative
Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service
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Focus on Solitude Alternative

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service

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The majority of the park would be managed in its natural state, with access provided primarily via the hubs. Levels of visitor use within the developed hubs would be relatively high, and a wide variety of experiences would be possible.

The centralized access alternative was designed to improve public service within the 48- mile- long park by using gateways to meet the challenge presented by the linear shape. With several million residents in the region, transportation access to the park is through congested neighborhood scale arterials and collector streets.

The centralized access alternative would expand services while maintaining green space throughout the 10,000- acre park. This would be accomplished by coordinating public/private partnerships at carefully selected centers (hubs) of park development and management. The centers would be selected to better provide access at designated areas along the north, central, and southern portions of the park. These centralized areas would provide: (1) park services; (2) National Park Service staff as required; (3) developed, multi modal facilities where shuttles and automobiles could be parked; and (4) visitor access to trail heads to remote zones. The centralized access points would provide put- in or rental boating facilities for water access, visitor participation opportunities at the more active park recreation facilities, and on- site informational materials on cultural and natural resources throughout the park.

A centralized access strategy would also enhance the opportunity for instituting National Park Service education programs at key regional locations to better reach a growing population and service area. This alternative would allow the National Park Service to concentrate its limited resources in heavily populated core areas of the corridor rather than distributing staff and resources uniformly. The centralized access concept envisions higher minimum standards for transportation connectivity, and places greater emphasis on public-private partnerships with educational non- profits, cities, counties, and regional agencies. This alternative would discourage expanded new entrances to the park and would encourage National Park Service supervision, education, monitoring, and enforcement where park use is greatest.

The visitor experience in this alternative would be more participatory, with more opportunity for socializing and involvement in group activities and less opportunity for solitude near the hubs. However, opportunities for solitude would still exist at various locations in the park. In particular, a nine-mile pristine river zone would be established between McGinnis Ferry Road and Highway 20, with the exception of a limited access point for visitors and non- motorized vessels at Settles Bridge. This feature would provide visitors with the opportunity to experience the river in a relatively natural condition. No trails would be allowed on the river bank in this zone, and no fuel- powered vessels would be allowed; vessels with electric motors would, however, be allowed.

A survey of this area by the National Park Service during the preparation of the general management plan and environmental impact statement determined that it was characterized by a high degree of natural qualities, despite the fact that development has occurred in some areas on either side of the river. When viewing from the river, a boater would see a forested buffer of large trees for the majority of the nine- mile stretch of river. Inclusion of this extensive pristine river zone in this alternative is one of its major features.

A special feature of this alternative is that it would define the use of motorized vessels (gasoline- driven motors) as an appropriate use in the upper portion of Bull Sluice Lake, located in the vicinity of the City of Roswell. Under this alternative, use of motorized vessels would be allowed from Highway 9, just north of River mile 317, to River mile 315 within the lake. Appropriate uses would include water skiing as well as cruising in gas- powered vessels. Bull Sluice Lake is the only lake within the 48- mile park and provides a unique recreation opportunity for use of motorized vessels. The lake is located within heavily developed Roswell, and is conveniently situated for this purpose.

The use of motorized vessels would not be permitted in Bull Sluice Lake below River Mile 315, which demarcates the northern end of the area currently defined as the Gold Branch Unit. This is a several- hundred acre area that remains in a relatively naturally forested state. The lake in this area is also characterized by extensive freshwater emergent wetlands that provide an unusual non- motorized



boating opportunity for visitors in non- motorized vessels. This alternative would allow continued use of the upper part of the lake for motorized vessels, while protecting the lower part of the lake in the vicinity of the Gold Branch Unit from noise and impacts caused by the movement of speed boats. The Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative map shows the distribution of zones under this alternative.

EXPANDED USE ALTERNATIVE

In this alternative, expanding and distributing access throughout the park, including on newly acquired parcels, would provide a variety of visitor experiences. New facilities would be developed or existing facilities would be refurbished. Connectivity to existing neighborhoods would be optimized, providing similar visitor experiences throughout the park.

In the metropolitan Atlanta region, parks are at a premium. Expanding use of the park to meet the resultant demand is a viable alternate that could be achieved within the limits imposed by the various laws, regulations, policies, and mandates of the National Park Service. According to National Park Service- sponsored surveys, typical visitors to the park are young, business- oriented single users, principally males, generally white, and suburban. Access to the park could be expanded in the future for all visitors, as this linear park is located adjacent to the most densely developed neighborhoods and business communities of the metropolitan area.

Implementation of this alternative would enable the National Park Service to expand use to local visitors, including families, and to visitors from business parks and neighborhoods. It would also provide trail linkages to city- and county- funded and supervised parks. This alternate concept would provide an opportunity for a general broadening of park knowledge and interest in the National Park Service through increased use of the park.

People in urban areas such as Atlanta seldom experience relatively undisturbed natural areas or view wildlife in a natural habitat. Under this alternative, social trails from existing and proposed developments would be managed to encourage use by an expanded user group. The expanded use

alternative would require a higher level of self- help and individual reliance from a wide range of associations and from parents, business organizations, and local governments.

This alternate concept would require a proactive National Park Service outreach program. Expanded use would de- emphasize solitude and emphasize a more social, community- based group experience that envisions the park as an extension of the communities surrounding it. Expanding uses and access would require a redefinition of gathering spaces surrounding the national park that would be used for picnics, celebrations, neighborhood meetings, and family walks, and would be characterized as a visitor experience of convenience and personal attachment.

Facilities for the park would be necessarily distributed throughout the 48 miles, based on availability of resources and local community support. The park plan would emphasize expanded citizen involvement and enforcement of access restrictions. A greater and more diverse population of residents would be served. This alternative would have the potential to strengthen community involvement in environmental protection of the park and its resources. Local self- help education and voluntary public/private partnerships could enhance park stewardship.

The Expanded Use Alternative map shows the distribution of zones under this alternative.

COMPARATIVE COST ANALYSIS

The estimates in this section regarding the general costs of implementing the alternatives were developed based on fiscal year 2002 dollars. The actual cost of implementing the general management plan will ultimately depend on funding by the National Park Service and Congress over the life of the plan, as well as the ability to partner with other agencies or groups.

Cost estimates were developed through an evaluation of capital and annual operating costs for each of the proposed three action alternatives and the No Action Alternative. The National Park Service uses a broad range of costing techniques including Class A, Class B, and Class C levels of cost

Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

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estimating. The capital costs estimates provided are in the form of category “C” estimates, which are general, or order- of- magnitude, estimates. The accepted industry range of Class C estimates is -30 percent to +50 percent. Therefore, a \$1,000,000 estimate has an actual range of between \$700,000 and \$1,500,000. Class A and B estimates are based upon more detailed information, and represent design and construction finances at the time of actual development activities.

Estimates are based on guidance from the National Park Service *Cost Estimating Guideline with Class C Cost Data: New Construction* (2001a).

Capital Costs

The comparable costs related to the 15- 20 year capital infrastructure construction time frame of the general management plan and environmental impact statement is an estimated \$10,160,000 for the Focus on Solitude Alternative, \$19,833,000 for the Centralized Access Alternative, and \$30,341,000 for the Expanded Use Alternative. The No Action Alternative assumes that no capital improvements will be made. All costs are Class “C” estimates. Estimates for transportation improvements and for education and visitor buildings are total Class “C” costs and do not reflect cost sharing anticipated from other federal, state, county, or municipal agencies or from the private sector.

Certain major capital costs are common to all alternatives. These include construction of the integrated trail system, key pedestrian bridges, park signage, and cultural resource projects. The capital costs of these elements are repeated in the estimates of each alternative to reflect general estimated costs of implementation. A cost cannot be estimated at this time for natural resource restoration, which includes actions to address invasive exotic species, stream bank restoration, and wetlands restoration. These costs cannot be quantified due to site- specific details that are not available for a Class “C” evaluation. The Focus on Solitude Alternative, in particular, has natural restoration activities that require significant individualized site analysis and costs estimated to be higher than the other alternatives.

Operating Costs

Annual operating and maintenance costs for the park are estimated at \$700,000. This includes maintenance of existing facilities and minimal or no maintenance of new acreage added to the park.

Costs for Staffing

Staffing costs are based on the assumption that the park will continue to expand up to the authorized 10,000- acres. The costs for staffing have been adjusted to address the need for additional full time employees, or equivalents, for the existing level of service and for expanded geographic responsibilities, expanded partnering responsibilities, increased levels of management and patrolling relative to the increased size of the park, and increased population of the adjacent communities. The existing (No Action) staffing level is approximately 39 fulltime employees with an annual budget of \$1,936,000. It is estimated that an additional 34 full time employees are needed to staff cultural and natural resource management programs, and 19 full time employees are needed to address visitor resource assessment programs. Combined, these comprise a projected need for 53 full time employees, with a cost equivalent of \$2,120,000 at an average salary of \$40,000.

The Focus on Solitude requires an estimated 83 additional staff to address the proposed increase in environmental restoration, cultural and historic preservation, trail monitoring, and educational outreach. The estimated additional staffing cost for the alternative is \$3,320,000. Adding the projected need in staff, the total need is \$5,440,000.

The Centralized Access Alternative requires an additional 37 full time employees, or equivalents, to address education and service delivery, principally through the hub locations. The additional staff costs are estimated at \$1,480,000, a lower cost than the Focus on Solitude alternative because of the central location of staff and services. Combined with the projected need, the total staff need for this alternative is \$3,600,000.

The Expanded Use Alternative requires 79 staff to be distributed throughout the system, with a special need for patrolling and surveillance. The additional staff cost is estimated at \$3,160,000. Com-



bined with the current projected need, the total staffing proposed for the Expanded Use Alternative is \$5,280,000.

These estimates are based on Class C conceptual level cost estimates. The actual cost of staffing each alternative would vary according to the GS rating, experience level, and education and professional certifications as well as the deployment of staff needed to provide minimum levels of satisfactory park services.

Costs Comparison

Table 2 lists the cost for each alternative, presented according to the assumptions outlined above.

Comparative costs for the alternatives include construction costs and total life-cycle costs (Table 3). Development and estimated construction costs include demolition, materials, roads, trails, exhibits, signs, restrooms, and restoration projects. Estimated costs are based on costs for similar types of development in other parks provided by the National Park Service Denver Service Center. Life-Cycle costs include the costs of operating buildings, the staffing required, maintenance, and replacement costs of alternative elements. The life-Cycle costs presented in Table 3 are for a 25-year period of time. The cost figures are expressed in 2002 dollars (see also Appendix C).

Table 2: Grand Total Cost per Alternative

<u>Alternative</u>	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Operating</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Focus on Solitude</u>	10,160,000	230,000	3,320,000	
Existing		700,000	1,936,000	
Projected Need			2,120,000	
Total	10,160,000	930,000	7,376,000	18,466,000
 <u>Centralized Access</u>	 19,833,000	 230,000	 1,480,000	
Existing		700,000	1,936,000	
Projected Need			2,120,000	
Total	19,833,000	930,000	5,536,000	26,299,000
 <u>Expanded Use</u>	 30,341,000	 230,000	 3,160,000	
Existing		700,000	1,936,000	
Projected Need			2,120,000	
Total	30,341,000	930,000	7,216,000	38,487,000
 <u>No Action</u>	 NA	 700,000	 1,936,000	
Projected Need			2,120,000	
Total	NA	700,000	4,056,000	NA

Table 3: Summary of Comparative Costs (FY 2002 Dollars, see Appendix C)

	Focus on Solitude	Centralized Access (Preferred)	Expanded Use	No Action
Gross Construction, Operating and Staffing Costs	18,466,000	26,299,000	38,487,000	NA
Total Life- Cycle Costs (Present Worth)	105,731,000	93,504,000	122,792,000	55,424,000

MITIGATION MEASURES OF THE ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Mitigation involves measures taken to avoid, reduce, or minimize potentially adverse impacts. It is a key concept in resource management planning. Here, it provides a means for accommodating visitor interactions and park operations with natural and cultural resources and their tolerances for disturbances.

Mitigation and best management practices are regularly used to ensure that the park's natural and cultural resources are protected and preserved for future visitors without impairment. In the legislation creating the National Park Service, Congress charged it with managing lands under its stewardship "in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" (NPS Organic Act, 16 United States Code 1). As a result, the National Park Service routinely evaluates and implements mitigation whenever conditions occur that could adversely affect the sustainability of park resources.

Mitigation was included throughout the formulation of the alternatives included in this general management plan. Table 4 provides a summary of mitigation measures proposed for each action alternative.

Common mitigation practices that would be applied to each action alternative are described in this subsection. Measures taken to protect natural resources include siting new facilities in previously disturbed areas while also avoiding cultural resources whenever feasible to avoid causing new impacts. Boardwalks, fences, signs, and similar measures would be used to route people away from

sensitive resources, such as wetlands or riparian habitats, while still permitting access to important viewpoints. Wetland and sensitive riparian habitats would be delineated by qualified specialists and clearly marked before construction work proceeded. In addition, all action alternatives would include development and implementation of a resource management plan, a water resource management plan, a fisheries management plan, a collections management plan, a commercial services plan, and an integrated trails system plan, which would significantly mitigate adverse effects on park resources.

Construction zones would be identified and fenced with temporary fencing or a similar material prior to any construction activity. The fencing would define the construction zone and confine activity to the minimum area required. All protection measures would be clearly stated in construction specifications, and workers would be instructed to avoid areas beyond the fencing. Measures to control dust and erosion during construction could include the following: watering dry soils; using silt fences and sedimentation controls; stabilizing soils during and after construction with specially designed fabrics, certified straw, or other materials; covering haul trucks; and revegetating disturbed areas with native species as soon as possible after construction.

Standard noise abatement measures would be implemented during park operations and construction activities. These measures could include: scheduling activities to minimize impacts, use of the best available noise control techniques, use of hydraulically or electrically powered tools, and keeping distance from sensitive uses or resources.



Table 4: Summary of Mitigation Measures Associated With The Alternatives

Impact Category	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative
Air Quality	None	None	None	None
Water Resources	Storm water runoff would be controlled with the same best management practices listed under the No Action Alternative. Additional protective measures would include a resource management plan, water resource management plan, fisheries management plan, and integrated trails systems plan.	Storm water runoff would be controlled with the same best management practices listed under the No Action Alternative. Additional protective measures would include a resource management plan, water resource management plan, fisheries management plan, and integrated trails systems plan.	Storm water runoff would be controlled with the same best management practices listed under the No Action Alternative. Additional protective measures would include a resource management plan, water resource management plan, fisheries management plan, and integrated trails systems plan.	Best management practices would be implemented to control the amount and quality of runoff. These would include erosion control measures such as type C silt fencing in slopes greater than 3 percent, mulching, sedimentation ponds, and use of cocoa fiber and seeding of native grasses.
Floodplains and Wetlands	Floodplains and wetlands would continue to be protected by conducting individual environmental assessments for construction projects. Best management practices would also be employed. Additional protective measures would also include implementation of a resource management plan, water resource management plan, and integrated trails systems plan.	Floodplains and wetlands would continue to be protected by conducting individual environmental assessments for construction projects. Best management practices would also be employed. Implementation of a resource management plan, water resource management plan, and integrated trails systems plan for the park would provide a systematic framework for wetland and floodplain protection, restoration, and preservation. Increased numbers of park staff would explain to visitors the importance of protecting and preserving these resources, and would provide	Floodplains and wetlands would continue to be protected by conducting individual environmental assessments for construction projects. Best management practices would also be employed. Implementation of a resource management plan, water resource management plan, and integrated trails systems plan would provide a systematic framework for wetland and floodplain protection, restoration, and preservation. Increased numbers of park staff would explain to visitors the importance of protecting and preserving these resources, and would provide	Floodplains and wetlands would continue to be protected by conducting individual environmental assessments for construction projects. Best management practices would also be employed.



Table 4: Summary of Mitigation Measures Associated With The Alternatives

Impact Category	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative
Floodplains and Wetlands (Continued)		increased monitoring and enforcement of existing wetland and floodplain regulations and policies.	increased monitoring and enforcement of existing wetland and floodplain regulations and policies.	
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species	Efforts to document and protect the park’s rare, threatened, and endangered species would continue and could potentially expand under this alternative. New areas that could be added to the park under this alternative would increase the areas offering protection. Implementation of a resource management plan, a fisheries management plan, and an integrated trails system plan could also result in long-term habitat improvements and restoration activities.	Efforts to document and protect the park’s rare, threatened, and endangered species would continue and could potentially expand under this alternative. New areas that could be added to the park under this alternative would increase the areas offering protection. Increased staffing levels in the park and implementation of a resource management plan, a fisheries management plan, and an integrated trails system plan could also result in long-term habitat improvements and restoration activities.	Efforts to document and protect the park’s rare, threatened, and endangered species would continue and could potentially expand under this alternative. Increased staffing levels in the park and implementation of a resource management plan, a fisheries management plan, and an integrated trails system plan could also result in long-term habitat improvements and restoration activities. Public partnerships and education programs would also result in improved protection for these resources.	Efforts to document and protect these species populations currently present in the park would be completed under site-specific environmental assessments.



Table 4: Summary of Mitigation Measures Associated With The Alternatives

Impact Category	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative
Terrestrial Ecological Resources	Current park management practices, such as completing environmental assessments prior to construction, minimizing tree clearing, avoiding sensitive upland forested areas, and controlling the presence and distribution of invasive species, would continue. Measures would also include implementation of a resource management plan, water resource management plan, and integrated trails systems plan, as well as increased education, research, restoration, monitoring, and agency coordination.	Current park management practices, such as completing environmental assessments prior to construction, minimizing tree clearing, avoiding sensitive upland forested areas, and controlling the presence and distribution of invasive species, would continue. Measures would also include implementation of an integrated trails system plan, water resource management plan, resource management plan, as well as increased education, agency coordination, and staffing levels.	Current park management practices, such as completing environmental assessments prior to construction, minimizing tree clearing, avoiding sensitive upland forested areas, and controlling the presence and distribution of invasive species, would continue. Measures would also include implementation of an integrated trails system plan, water resource management plan, resource management plan, as well as increased education, agency coordination, and staffing levels.	Current park management practices, such as completing environmental assessments prior to construction, minimizing tree clearing, avoiding sensitive upland forested areas, and controlling the presence and distribution of invasive species, would continue.
Prime and Unique Farmlands and Soils	Conducting an environmental assessment and/or instituting best management practices would minimize impacts to these resources. Implementation of an integrated trails system plan and a resource management plan would further enhance protection.	Conducting an environmental assessment and/or instituting best management practices would minimize impacts to these resources. Implementation of an integrated trails system plan and a resource management plan would further enhance protection.	Conducting an environmental assessment and/or instituting best management practices would minimize impacts to these resources. Implementation of an integrated trails system plan and a resource management plan would further enhance protection.	Conducting an environmental assessment and/or instituting best management practices would minimize impacts to these resources.



Table 4: Summary of Mitigation Measures Associated With The Alternatives

Impact Category	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative
Archeological Resources	Avoidance and minimization of potentially adverse effects on archeological resources would be achieved during the environmental assessment by: (1) identification of resources that could potentially exist on each site by completion of archeological field surveys and reports; and (2) completion of data recovery and preservation actions on proposed construction sites where archeological resources are identified. A resource management plan would also be prepared. If, during construction, any previously unknown archeological resources are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office. In addition to data recovery and preservation, mitigation could also include other measures such as site burial.	Avoidance and minimization of potentially adverse effects on archeological resources would be achieved during the environmental assessment by: (1) identification of resources that could potentially exist on each site by completion of archeological field surveys and reports; and (2) completion of data recovery and preservation actions as needed. A resource management plan would be prepared. If, during construction, any previously unknown archeological resources are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office. In addition to data recovery and preservation, mitigation could also include other measures such as site burial.	Avoidance and minimization of potentially adverse effects on archeological resources would be achieved during the environmental assessment by: (1) identification of resources that could potentially exist on each site by completion of archeological field surveys and reports; and (2) completion of data recovery and preservation actions as needed. A resource management plan would be prepared. If, during construction, any previously unknown archeological resources are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office. In addition to data recovery and preservation, mitigation could also include other measures such as site burial.	Avoidance and minimization of potentially adverse effects on archeological resources would be achieved during the environmental assessment by: (1) identification of resources that could potentially exist on each site by completion of archeological field surveys and reports; and (2) completion of data recovery and preservation actions as needed. A resource management plan would be prepared. If, during construction, any previously unknown archeological resources are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office. In addition to data recovery and preservation, mitigation could also include other measures such as site burial.



Table 4: Summary of Mitigation Measures Associated With The Alternatives

Impact Category	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative
Historic Buildings, Structures, and Objects	<p>These resources would be afforded enhanced protection and preservation through systematic integrated inventory, research, and preservation programs in 10 cultural resource zones as well as a resource management plan. Rehabilitation of historic structures and cultural landscapes would occur, with some historic structures being returned to their original uses and others being rehabilitated and adaptively reused in accordance with park resource values.</p> <p>Efforts would be made to avoid adverse impacts to cultural resources by identifying historic properties prior to an undertaking, avoiding effects to historic properties where possible, and by using visual screens and/or sensitive designs that are compatible with historic resources. Studies carried out in advance of undertakings to identify historic properties and assess effects will comply with the requirements of Sections 106</p>	<p>These resources would be afforded enhanced protection and preservation through systematic integrated inventory, research, and preservation programs in nine cultural resource zones as well as implementation of a resource management plan. Rehabilitation of historic structures and cultural landscapes would occur, with some historic structures being returned to their original uses and others being rehabilitated and adaptively reused in accordance with park resource values.</p> <p>Avoidance and minimization of potentially adverse effects on archeological resources would be achieved during the environmental assessment by: (1) identification of resources that could potentially exist on each site by completion of archeological field surveys and reports; and (2) completion of data recovery and preservation actions on proposed construction sites where archeological resources are identified. All assessments would be completed by archeologists who meet the Secretary of the Interior's</p>	<p>These resources would be afforded enhanced protection and preservation through systematic integrated inventory, research, and preservation programs in seven cultural resource zones as well as implementation of a resource management plan. Rehabilitation of historic structures and cultural landscapes would occur, with some historic structures being returned to their original uses and others being rehabilitated and adaptively reused in accordance with park resource values.</p> <p>Avoidance and minimization of potentially adverse effects on archeological resources would be achieved during the environmental assessment by: (1) identification of resources that could potentially exist on each site by completion of archeological field surveys and reports; and (2) completion of data recovery and preservation actions on proposed construction sites where archeological resources are identified. All assessments would be completed by archeologists who meet the Secretary of the Interior's</p>	<p>Few of these resources in the park would be afforded enhanced protection and preservation treatment. If a site was discovered during construction, data recovery and preservation efforts would partly mitigate impacts.</p> <p>Avoidance and minimization of potentially adverse effects on archeological resources would be achieved during the environmental assessment by: (1) identification of resources that could potentially exist on each site by completion of archeological field surveys and reports; and (2) completion of data recovery and preservation actions on proposed construction sites where archeological resources are identified. All assessments would be completed by archeologists who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards. If, during construction, any previously unknown archeological resources are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy devel-</p>



Table 4: Summary of Mitigation Measures Associated With The Alternatives

Impact Category	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative
Historic Buildings, Structures, and Objects (Cont'd)	and 110 of the NHPA, 36 CFR 60, 36 CFR 800, and NPS Director's Order 28. In addition, a resource management plan will would be prepared. Mitigation measures may include data recovery of identified National Register eligible archeological sites and documentation of built resources in accordance with Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record standards. If, during construction, any previously unknown resources are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.	Professional Qualifications Standards. If, during construction, any previously unknown archeological resources are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.	Professional Qualifications Standards. If, during construction, any previously unknown archeological resources are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.	oped in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.
Transportation	Implementation of an integrated trails system plan would minimize impacts.	Implementation of an integrated trails system plan would minimize impacts.	Implementation of an integrated trails system plan would minimize impacts.	With no change in management approaches, existing transportation problems would continue.



Table 4: Summary of Mitigation Measures Associated With The Alternatives

Impact Category	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative
Visitor and Community Values	This alternative would include increased education and research opportunities, ranger contact, and coordination with local agencies for monitoring and protecting park resources. Implementation of a resource management plan, and an integrated trails systems plan would enhance visitor experience over the long term.	A system of hubs would create a more efficient and cohesive working environment and a widely distributed park ranger presence, thus better serving park visitors. Improvement to facilities used for administration, operation, and visitor activities would enhance educational and interpretive experiences. Implementation of a resource management plan, and an integrated trails systems plan would enhance visitor experience over the long-term.	Expanded access and facilities would create a widely distributed park ranger presence, thus better serving park visitors. Improvement to facilities used for administration, operation, and visitor activities would enhance educational and interpretive experiences. Implementation of a resource management plan, and an integrated trails systems plan would enhance visitor experience over the long- term.	Visitor and community values would continue to be shaped by present management programs and policies, which are unlikely to be able to handle increased levels of visitation.



Following completion of construction activities, all areas of disturbed soils and vegetation would be regraded and revegetated as soon as possible. Natural topographic features would be restored to the extent possible using excavated soils from other park projects, and native species would be used in all revegetation efforts. Restoration efforts would be maximized by using salvaged topsoil and native vegetation and by monitoring revegetation success for several growing seasons as appropriate. Undesirable species would be monitored and control strategies initiated if needed.

For all action alternatives, mitigation actions would occur prior to construction to minimize immediate and long-term impacts to rare, threatened, and endangered species. Surveys would be conducted for such species as warranted. Facilities would be sited and designed so as to avoid adverse effects to such species whenever possible. If avoidance is infeasible, adverse effects would be minimized and compensated for, as appropriate, and in consultation with appropriate resource agencies.

Efforts would also be made to avoid adverse impacts to cultural resources by identifying historic properties prior to an undertaking, avoiding effects to historic properties where possible, following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation and by using visual screens and/or sensitive designs that are compatible with historic resources. Studies carried out in advance of undertakings to identify historic properties and assess effects will comply with the requirements of Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 36 CFR 60, 36 CFR 800, and National Park Service Directors Order- 28. Mitigation measures, in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office, may include data recovery of identified National Register eligible archeological sites and documentation of built resources in accordance with Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record standards. If, during construction, any previously unknown archeological resources are discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.

SELECTING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

In order to develop the preferred alternative, all of the alternatives were evaluated using the Choosing by Advantages process. This approach was used to minimize the potential influence of individual biases and opinions. This process, which has been used by government agencies and the private sector, evaluates different alternatives by identifying and comparing the relative advantages of each according to a set of criteria.

One of the greatest strengths of the Choosing by Advantages process is its fundamental philosophy: decisions must be anchored in relevant facts. For example, the question "is it more important to protect natural resources or cultural resources?" is "unanchored", because it has no relevant facts on which to make a decision.

The Choosing by Advantages process, instead, asks which alternative gives the greatest advantage. To answer this question, relevant facts were used to determine the advantages the alternatives provide. The criteria used to evaluate the alternatives were derived from the impact topics. Alternatives were evaluated to see how they:

- Maximize protection of cultural resources including archeological resources, historic resources, historic structures/buildings, cultural landscapes, and museum collections.

- Maximize protection of natural resources (for example, biotic communities, threatened and endangered species, water resources, and air quality).

- Provide diverse visitor experiences and opportunities (diversity of visitor activities, education and orientation, visitor facilities and services, and visitor experience values).

- Limit effects on neighbors (adjacent communities, local and state agencies).

- Improve operational efficiency (staffing, infrastructure, visitor facilities and services, and the role of commercial operators).

Alternatives were rated on the attributes relating to each of these factors listed. (A detailed list of factors developed is provided in Appendix C). The



advantages of the attributes were compared. The Centralized Access Alternative was selected as the preferred alternative through this process. It was modified to include aspects of the other alternatives that provided the greatest advantages.

Selection of the Centralized Access Alternative was based on the findings of the choosing by advantages workshop and the overall ability of this alternative to meet park objectives, support the purpose of the park, and minimize adverse effects to the resources of the park while providing for public use and enjoyment. The preferred alternative is also the environmentally preferred alternative, as defined in the section that follows.

ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

According to Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Park Service National Environmental Policy Act guidelines (*Director's Order #12*), an environmentally preferred alternative must be identified in environmental documents. Section 101(b) of the National Environmental Policy Act identifies the following criteria to help determine the environmentally preferred alternative.

1. Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations
2. Ensure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and esthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings
3. Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences
4. Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice
5. Achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities

6. Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources

The No Action Alternative represents the current management direction for the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. There would be no major changes in resources management, visitor programs, or facilities beyond regular maintenance. Visitor services, such as environmental education, search and rescue, interpretation, facility planning and maintenance, and boating access would remain unchanged. The current park road system and river access would be retained, and existing river and road traffic management practices would continue into the future.

Because staffing and funding levels would not be expected to change dramatically under the No Action Alternative, diversity of educational opportunities would continue to be limited, and the park's ability to respond to the ever-increasing demand to address compliance issues with regard to natural and cultural resource protection would continue to be a challenge. Overall, visitor opportunities to observe and appreciate resources with a minimum of inadvertent or intentional damage would continue, according to current plans, policies, and procedures available to resource management personnel at the park. Protection of cultural and natural resources would be less enhanced than under other alternatives.

The No Action Alternative does not fully realize provisions 1, 3, 4, 5, or 6 of the criteria prescribed under Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Centralized Access and Expanded Use alternatives provide for improved and more varied visitor experience, and the Focus on Solitude Alternative provides for the greatest level of resource protection.

Under the Centralized Access Alternative, visitors would be drawn toward a system of relatively developed hubs in which administrative and interpretive facilities are located. Hubs, at a minimum, would provide visitor information, rest room, parking lot and roads, trail head, and access to the river. Trailheads and parking lots would be minimized outside the hubs.

The visitor experience would be focused on the educational activities and other facilities available in the hubs. Visitor activities in natural areas outside the hubs would be focused on achieving solitude in an urban environment. The opportunity for instituting NPS educational and interpretive programs, visitor services, and connectivity at key regional locations would be enhanced.

The Centralized Access Alternative best achieves the six goals prescribed under Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act. Compared to the other action alternatives, the Centralized Access Alternative better accomplishes goals 3 and 5 by providing more diverse visitor experiences, and better provides for goal 4 and 6 than do the No Action or Expanded Use Alternative.

The Focus on Solitude Alternative would implement management programs that would minimize development in the park and maximize the opportunity for visitors to experience solitude in natural settings. This approach would involve reducing or minimizing recreational sites and facilities within the newly acquired areas of the park, but would allow continued use of the existing facilities in the original named units to adhere to recent practices. Some areas subject to heavy use would be allowed to continue such use, with the option to improve conditions through various means. Newly acquired areas would remain in a more natural state, with only unpaved trails being constructed. Areas with significant cultural resources would be managed to protect values in accordance with National Register standards, with only limited facilities added such as small gravel parking lots, primitive trails, and interpretive signage.

The Focus on Solitude Alternative provides the greatest level of protection to the cultural and natural resources of the park, best meeting goal 4 compared to other alternatives, but does not meet goals 2, 3, and 5 to the same degree as does the Centralized Access Alternative.

The Expanded Use Alternative provides for expanding and distributing access throughout the park, including newly acquired parcels, thereby providing the widest opportunity for increased and diverse visitor experiences. New facilities would be developed or existing facilities would be refur-

bished, and connectivity to existing neighborhoods would be optimized.

Expanded use would require a proactive outreach program with dedicated resources to manage the increased visitation to the park. This alternative would be more on the successful development of public/private partnerships than would other action alternatives. Compared to other alternatives, the emphasis would be more on social experience than solitude, providing for the widest range of visitor experiences and access. However, there would be a higher potential for impacts to natural and cultural resources under this alternative. The Expanded Use Alternative does not meet goals, 3, 4, and 6 to the same degree as either the Focus on Solitude or Centralized Access Alternatives.

In summary, based on potential resource and visitor impacts and on proposed mitigation for impacts to natural and cultural resources, the National Park Service has determined that the environmental preferable alternative is the Centralized Access Alternative. While some specific actions under the Focus on Solitude Alternative may achieve similar, or in some cases greater, levels of protection for certain cultural and natural resources than under the Centralized Access Alternative, in whole, the Centralized Access Alternative best achieves the six goals prescribed under Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act. While many of the actions in other alternatives may be similar to this alternative in their effect and consequence, the Centralized Access Alternative 1) provides a high level of protection of natural and cultural resources while concurrently attaining the widest range of neutral and beneficial uses of the environment without degradation; 2) maintains an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice; and 3) integrates resource protection with opportunities for an appropriate range of visitor uses.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Table 5 presents a summary of environmental consequences, showing each alternative's potential effects by impact topic. Detailed descriptions of the context, intensity, and duration of impacts are provided in the "Environmental Consequences" section.



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Air Quality	<p>The No Action Alternative would result in negligible, adverse long-term direct and cumulative effects on air quality because of the small volumes of air emissions that would occur from the few facilities that would be constructed and operated.</p> <p>As the population and traffic congestion around the park increases in the future, degraded air quality could affect park resources in as yet unidentified ways. This would probably constitute a moderate adverse, long-term cumulative effect on air quality that would occur under all of the alternatives.</p>	<p>The volume of air emissions of construction and operation produced under this alternative would be higher than those produced under the No Action Alternative. Because the few new facilities would be constructed and operated, however, the overall effects on air quality and natural resources would still be negligible, adverse and long-term.</p> <p>Implementation of the Centralized Access Alternative would not cause any adverse cumulative impacts on air quality and natural resources, because the total volume of air emissions under this alternative would be negligible in comparison with the volume of air emissions originating outside the park.</p>	<p>Emissions generated from limited construction, maintenance and operation activities under the Focus on Solitude Alternative would cause negligible, adverse long-term effects on air quality and natural resources. Growth in the area surrounding the park would cause moderate, adverse cumulative effects on air quality that would not be under the control of the park management.</p>	<p>The relative amount of air emissions of construction and operation produced under the Expanded Use Alternative would be higher than those produced under the No Action Alternative. Because the relatively few new facilities would be constructed and operated, however, the overall effects on air quality would nevertheless be minor, adverse and long-term.</p>
Water Resources	<p>Construction and maintenance of park facilities under this alternative would have negligible, adverse, direct short- and long-term effects on surface water hydrology, water quality and</p>	<p>The Centralized Access Alternative would have minor, adverse, short-term direct impacts on surface water hydrology, water quality, and aquatic resources resulting</p>	<p>The Focus on Solitude Alternative would have negligible, adverse, direct short-term and long-term effects on surface water hydrology, water quality, and aquatic resources resulting</p>	<p>The Expanded Use Alternative would have moderate, adverse, direct short-term and long-term impacts on surface water hydrology, water quality, and aquatic resources resulting from con-</p>



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Water Resources (Continued)	<p>aquatic resources inside the park. During operation, the effects of increasing visitor use would have moderate, adverse, long- term direct and cumulative effects on water resources related to increased erosion on trails and other areas. Water resources in the park, including the Chattahoochee River, would continue to be primarily influenced by urban development in the surrounding urban watershed, however. Lack of implementation of resource and trail management plans would have moderate, adverse, long- term direct on water resources in the park, since these plans would emphasize measures to control erosion and minimize disturbance of soil. These activities could result in major, long- term adverse cumulative effects on water resources in the park.</p>	<p>from construction and maintenance activities. These would be of greater intensity than the impacts on water resources resulting under the No Action Alternative. These effects would be offset to some degree by the implementation of resource and trail management plans, and by completion of environmental assessments that are tiered to the general management plan/environmental impact statement.</p> <p>Minor, adverse, long- term direct effects on water resources would result from surface runoff during operation. These would also be of greater intensity than the effects of the No Action Alternative. The potential effects of construction and operation of park facilities would be mitigated by implementation of resource management programs inside the park, and by completion of environmental assessments that are tiered to the general management</p>	<p>from construction and maintenance activities associated with park facilities. Negligible increases in surface runoff would also result from impervious surfaces during operation under this alternative. Implementation of resource and trail management would plans under this alternative would result in a major, beneficial direct and cumulative effect on water resources. The overall direct effect of this alternative on water resources in the park would therefore be negligible, adverse, and long- term.</p> <p>Water resources would continue to be more heavily influenced by urban development in the surrounding area than by activities in the park under all of the alternatives, including the Focus on Solitude Alternative. This would constitute a major, adverse long- term cumulative effect on water resources. These effects would be outside of the park's ability to control, however, and are not related to park actions.</p>	<p>struction and maintenance activities. These would of greater intensity than the effects on water resources resulting under the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>Moderate, adverse, long- term direct effects on surface water hydrology, water quality, and aquatic resources resulting from surface runoff during operation would also result during operation. Effects of operation on surface water hydrology, water quality, and aquatic resources would be greater than those produced by the No Action Alternative. The potential effects of construction and operation of park facilities would be mitigated by implementation of resource management programs inside the park. This would constitute a major, long- term, direct beneficial cumulative effect.</p> <p>Water resources would continue to be more heavily influenced by urban development in the surrounding area than by activities in the park under all of the alternatives. These potential effects</p>



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Water Resources (Continued)		<p>plan/environmental impact statement. This would constitute a major, long- term, direct beneficial cumulative effect on surface water hydrology, water quality, and aquatic resources.</p> <p>Water resources would continue to be more heavily influenced by urban development in the surrounding area than by activities in the park under all of the alternatives. These potential effects would be mitigated to some extent by implementation of resource management programs in the park, as well as coordination efforts with the surrounding communities, resulting in a major beneficial, long- term cumulative effect on surface water hydrology, water quality, and aquatic resources..</p>		<p>would be mitigated to some extent by implementation of resource management programs in the park, as well as coordination efforts with the surrounding communities, resulting in a major beneficial, long- term cumulative effect on water resources.</p> <p>None of the activities conducted by the National Park Service under the Expanded Use Alternative would cause impairment of park resources as a result of effects on hydrology, water quality or aquatic ecology within park boundaries, because the amount of surface water runoff and sedimentation during construction and operation of the park would be very small in comparison with the much larger volume of surface water runoff and sedimentation originating outside the park in developed areas. This is a cumulative effect that is outside of the park's control. In addition, best management practices, and resource and trail management plans would be developed and implemented under the Expanded Use Alternative, which would</p>



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Water Resources (Continued)				result in reduction and minimization of potential runoff of stormwater during construction and operation of the park. The three criteria for impairment would therefore not be met for this impact topic.
Wetlands and Floodplains	Construction and operation of park facilities under the No Action Alternative would result in minor, adverse, long- term direct and cumulative effects on wetlands and floodplains, since the amount of facility construction and operation would be very limited. Since no new park areas would be added under this alternative, it would have a negligible, beneficial, direct effect in this regard. However, the park would continue to experience major, adverse, long- term direct and cumulative effects on wetlands and floodplains resulting from erosion and sedimentation associated with stormwater runoff originating in developed areas outside the park. These effects would continue to occur because the park is narrow, over 48 miles long, and is located in	Implementation of the Centralized Access Alternative would result in minor, adverse long- term direct effects on wetlands and floodplains, since the amount of facility construction and operation would be intermediate. Implementation of resource and trail management programs would result in a moderate, beneficial, long- term effect on wetlands and floodplains in the park. Cumulative impacts from stormwater runoff originating in developed areas outside the park would cause major, adverse, long- term effects on wetlands and floodplains, however, due to erosion and sedimentation during major storm events.	Implementation of the Focus on Solitude Alternative would result in negligible, adverse long- term effects on wetlands and floodplains, since the amount of facility construction and operation would be very limited, in relation to the No Action Alternative. Cumulative impacts from stormwater runoff originating in developed areas outside the park would be expected to cause major, long- term adverse impacts on wetlands and floodplains, however, due to erosion and sedimentation during major storm events.	Implementation of the Expanded Use Alternative would result in minor, adverse long- term direct effects on wetlands and floodplains. The amount of facility construction and operation would be the greatest of all the alternatives in relation to the No Action Alternative, but implementation of resource and trail management programs would result in a moderate, beneficial, long- term effect on wetlands and floodplains in the park. Cumulative impacts from stormwater runoff originating in developed areas outside the park would, however, cause major, long- term adverse impacts on wetlands and floodplains, however, due to erosion and sedimentation during major storm events.



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Wetlands and Floodplains	the center of a rapidly developing urban area. The effects of stormwater runoff cannot be directly controlled by the park and resolution of this issue would ultimately depend on the effectiveness of watershed planning efforts in the surrounding communities.			
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species	Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in moderate, long- term adverse direct and cumulative effects on rare, threatened and endangered species, since some new facilities would be constructed and operated, resource and trail management plans would not be implemented, and habitat degradation through overuse and invasion of exotic species is more likely to occur. Efforts to document and protect rare, threatened and endangered species populations currently present in the park would continue to be completed under site- specific environmental assessments, however, which would help avoid or minimize potentially adverse effects on these species.. None of	Implementation of the Centralized Access Alternative would result in overall minor, adverse, long- term direct and cumulative effects on rare, threatened and endangered species, since the number of new facilities to be constructed and operated would be very limited, and a resource management plan and trails management plan would be implemented. New areas could also be added to the park and these could contain protected species. Efforts to document and protect rare, threatened and endangered species populations currently present in the park would continue to be maintained and potentially expanded. These factors would	Implementation of the Focus on Solitude Alternative would result in negligible, long- term, adverse direct and cumulative effects on rare, threatened and endangered species, since the number of new facilities to be constructed and operated would be very limited in comparison with the No Action Alternative, and a resource management plan and an integrated trails system plan would be implemented. Efforts to document and protect rare, threatened and endangered species populations currently present in the park would continue to be maintained and potentially expanded. New areas could also be added to the park and these could contain protected species. This would con-	Implementation of the Expanded Use Alternative would result in overall minor, adverse, long- term direct and cumulative effects on rare, threatened and endangered species, since environmental assessments would be required for each project, and a resource management plan and trails management plan would be implemented. New areas could also be added to the park and these could contain protected species. Efforts to document and protect rare, threatened and endangered species populations currently present in the park would continue to be maintained and potentially expanded. These factors would constitute moderate long- term beneficial direct and cumulative impacts. The overall direct and



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species (Continued)	the activities conducted by the NPS under the No Action Alternative would cause impairment of habitat for protected or the species themselves, because environmental assessments would be completed for each new park facility that identifies the potential or actual occurrence of protected species at each site, and these resources could be avoided. During operation, increased use of trails under the No Action Alternative would have the potential to cause some impacts on protected species habitat as a result of soil erosion and creation of new social trails. However, park management will still conduct trail maintenance activities, although to a lesser extent as compared with the action alternatives. As a result, park actions under the No Action Alternative would not lead to impairment of protected species habitat since the three criteria for impairment would not be met.	constitute moderate long- term beneficial direct and cumulative impacts.	stitute a moderate overall long-term beneficial effect.	cumulative impacts on protected species were therefore estimated to be minor, adverse and long-term.



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Terrestrial Ecological Resources	Overall, this alternative would have minor long- term direct and cumulative effects on terrestrial ecological resources as a result of the limited amount of facility construction that would occur. During operation, this alternative would result in moderate, long-term, adverse effects on terrestrial ecological resources because of less effective management visitor uses, the lack of resource and trail management plans, and because the park would not be expanded. At selected sites along heavily used or improperly designed or maintained trails where accelerated erosion is occurring, problems would continue and probably worsen.	<p>This alternative would result in an intermediate amount of land disturbance as compared with the No Action Alternative. The construction phase of the Centralized Access Alternative would therefore have minor, adverse, short- and long- term direct and cumulative effects on terrestrial ecological resources because of the greater degree of facility construction and operation in developed zones and up to three hubs. These impacts would be avoided and minimized because tiered environmental assessments would be required for each project.</p> <p>During operation, more visitors would be attracted to the park via developed zones and up to three hubs, resulting in an increased potential for visitor-related damage to habitats. Tiered environmental assessments would also be required prior to selecting a site for a project, however, and impacts would be avoided and/or</p>	The Focus on Solitude Alternative would have negligible, adverse, direct and cumulative impacts on terrestrial ecological resources because of the limited land disturbance and more passive forms of visitor use that would occur under this alternative as compared to the No Action Alternative. Tiered environmental assessments would also be required prior to selecting a site for a project, and impacts could be avoided or minimized. Implementation of a resource management plan, integrated trails system plan, and increased research, education, coordination, and staffing levels would have moderate, long- term beneficial effects on these resources in the park.	<p>This alternative would result in the highest relative amount of land disturbance as compared with the No Action Alternative, but these impacts would be avoided and minimized because tiered environmental assessments would required for each project. The construction phase of the Expanded Use Alternative would therefore have minor, adverse, short- and long- term direct and cumulative impacts on terrestrial resources related to facility construction and operation in the developed zones.</p> <p>During operation, more visitors would be attracted to the park via the developed zones in comparison with the No Action Alternative, resulting in an increased potential for visitor- related damage to habitats. Tiered environmental assessments would also be required prior to selecting a site for a project, however, and impacts would be avoided and/or minimized to the extent possible. Implementation of a resource management plan, integrated trails</p>



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Terrestrial Ecological Resources (Continued)		minimized to the extent possible. Implementation of a resource management plan, integrated trails system plan, increased education, coordination, and staffing levels would have major, long- term beneficial effects on these resources in the park. The overall direct effect of this alternative on terrestrial ecological resource was therefore estimated to be minor, adverse and long- term.		system plan, increased education, coordination, and staffing levels would have major, long- term beneficial effects on these resources in the park. The overall direct effect of the Expanded Use Alternative on terrestrial ecological resource was therefore estimated to be minor, adverse and long- term.
Prime and Unique Farmlands	The No Action Alternative would have minor, adverse, long- term, direct effects and moderate, adverse, long- term cumulative effects on prime and unique farmlands. The level of activities associated with construction and operation of new park facilities would be limited, but some new projects would be constructed and operated. Natural resource and trail management plans would not be implemented. Site-specific environmental assessments would identify these	The Centralized Access would have minor, adverse, direct and cumulative long- term impacts on prime and unique farmlands, since the amount of construction proposed within the park would be intermediate, site- specific environmental assessments would identify such resources and avoid impacting them, and resource and trail management plans would be implemented. Development in the area surrounding park would have moderate	The Focus on Solitude Alternative would have negligible direct long- term impacts on prime and unique farmlands, since the amount of construction proposed within the park would be limited, and tiered site- specific environmental assessments would identify such resources and avoid impacting them. This alternative would have moderate, adverse, long- term cumulative impacts on prime and unique farmlands, as a result of growth in the area surrounding the park.	The amount of construction proposed within the park would be the highest in comparison with the No Action Alternative, and concentrated in several developed zones. However, potential adverse impacts on prime and unique farmlands would be avoided and minimized by preparation of site-specific environmental assessments that would identify such resources. Resource and trail management plans would also be implemented, resulting in inventorying of these resources. The



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Prime and Unique Farmlands (Continued)	resources and would help to avoid them.	adverse, long- term impacts on prime and unique farmlands that is largely outside of the park’s control.		Expanded Use Alternative would therefore have minor, adverse direct and cumulative long- term impacts on prime and unique farmlands. In contrast, development in the area surrounding park would have moderate adverse, long- term impacts on prime and unique farmlands that are largely outside of the park’s control.
Archeological Resources	Because the No Action Alternative involves some construction-related activities and a relatively wide variety of visitor use, without the benefits associated with the establishment of cultural resource zones and/or the implementation of a resource management plan or a collections management plan, the potential for adverse effects is considered to be relatively high under the No Action Alternative. Despite the increased amount of data recovery and preservation efforts associated with the increased construction, these efforts would only partly mitigate impacts. The disturbance from construction and increased vandalism or inadvertent visitor damage over	Archeological resources in most of the Atlanta area have been disturbed or eliminated as a result of urban sprawl. Therefore, protection, and preservation of archaeological sites within the park is important on a regional level, as these resources represent former conditions throughout the area. The identification and systematic inventory of archaeological resources in the cultural resources zones during the implementation of the Centralized Access Alternative offer an opportunity to add to the knowledge of the prehistory and history of both the park and the entire vicinity.	Archaeological resources in most of the metropolitan Atlanta area have been previously disturbed or eliminated by as a result of development and urban sprawl. Therefore, improvements to, and preservation of, archaeological sites within the park is important on a regional level, as these resources represent former conditions throughout the area. The identification and systematic inventory of archaeological resources in the cultural resource zones during the implementation of the Focus on Solitude Alternative offers an opportunity to add to the knowledge of the prehistory and history of both the park and the entire vicinity.	Archeological resources in most of the Atlanta area have been disturbed or eliminated during the construction of the city and surrounding suburban and developed areas. Therefore, improvements to, and preservation of, archaeological sites within the park is important on a regional level, as these resources represent former conditions throughout the area. The identification and systematic inventory of archeological resources in the cultural resources zones during the implementation of the Expanded Use Alternative offer an opportunity to add to the knowledge of the prehistory and history of both the park and the entire vicinity. This constitutes a major, long- term beneficial



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Archeological Resources (Continued)	<p>time could result in some irretrievable and irreversible loss of archaeological resources. This alternative could therefore have a major, adverse, long- term direct and cumulative impacts on archeological resources. Implementation of this alternative could lead to impairment of archeological resources in the park.</p> <p>Archeological resources in most of the metropolitan Atlanta area have been disturbed as a result of development and urban sprawl. Therefore, protection and preservation of archaeological sites within the park is important on a regional level, as these resources represent former conditions throughout the area. Continuing protection of resources identified would have a moderate beneficial long- term impact by preserving them for the future.</p>	<p>The Centralized Access Alternative implements management actions that would centralize construction and visitor- impacts within developed zones and up to three hubs located in (or outside) the park, minimize the construction of facilities in other portions of the park, and highlight inventory, preservation and maintenance of archaeological sites within nine cultural resource zones. Despite the greater amount of construction and land disturbing activity involved under the Centralized Access Alternative compared to the No Action Alternative, survey, identification, and avoidance measures would be implemented prior to construction, thereby avoiding most or all of the adverse effects. This would increase our knowledge of the numbers and types of resources present within the park. The overall potential direct and cumulative effect of this alternative on archeological resources was</p>	<p>The Focus on Solitude Alternative implements management programs that would minimize construction and facilitated experiences in the park, and highlights inventory, preservation and maintenance of archaeological sites within ten cultural resource zones. As such, the Focus on Solitude Alternative has a lower potential for construction- related impacts to the various cultural resources present with the park in comparison with the No Action Alternative and a greater potential for inventory, preservation, and protection of that subset of archaeological sites that falls within the acreage designated for the cultural resource zones. Survey, identification, and avoidance measures that would be implemented prior to construction would avoid most or all of the adverse effects. Because the Focus on Solitude Alternative would re- establish natural conditions in much of the park, the potential for degradation and visitor- related impacts would be</p>	<p>impact on archeological resources.</p> <p>The increased amount of construction and development proposed under the Expanded Use Alternative would result in greater construction- related and visitor- related adverse effects to archeological sites within the park than the No Action Alternative. Similarly, the Expanded Use Alternative offers less direct protection, inventory, and interpretation of archeological sites within the park in comparison with the No Action Alternative. Despite the increased amount of data recovery and preservation efforts associated with the increased construction, these efforts would only partly mitigate impacts. The disturbance from construction and visitor vandalism could result in some irretrievable and irreversible loss of archaeological resources. This could constitute a major, adverse long- term effect. Implementing a resource management plan and a collections management plan would help reduce, avoid or mitigate these potential impacts.</p>



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Archeological Resources (Continued)		<p>therefore estimated to be minor, adverse and long- term.</p> <p>In addition, by implementing a resource management plan and increasing monitoring of degradation and vandalism within the park, the Centralized Access Alternative provides greater protection of archeological sites located outside of the cultural resource zones than the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>Prior to disturbing any site for construction, detailed National Environmental Policy Act assessments would be required as part of tiered environmental assessments. The National Environmental Policy Act requires avoidance and minimization of adverse impacts on cultural resources.</p>	<p>lower than under the No Action Alternative. The Focus on Solitude Alternative has a much lower potential to adversely impact archeological resources as compared with the No Action Alternative. A resource management plan and a collections management plan would be implemented, and additional survey work would be completed under the Focus on Solitude Alternative. The overall potential direct and cumulative effect of this alternative on archeological resources was therefore estimated to be minor, adverse and long- term.</p>	<p>The overall direct and cumulative adverse effects of this alternative on archeological resources were therefore estimated to be moderate and long- term.</p> <p>Prior to disturbing any site for construction, detailed National Environmental Policy reviews would be required as part of tiered environmental assessments. The National Environmental Policy Act requires avoidance and minimization of adverse impacts on cultural resources.</p> <p>There would be no impairment of resources or values associated with archeological resources in the park under the Expanded Use Alternative. Environmental Assessments would be prepared for each proposed park facility, and potential adverse impacts from construction of new park facilities would be avoided, or otherwise mitigated for through the Section 106 process. Implementation of a resource management plan would lead to identification and protection of archeological resources in the park during both construction and operation- related park ac-</p>



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Archeological Resources (Continued)				tions. Resources would be protected even though there would increased potential for effects to occur under this alternative. The three criteria for impairment would therefore not be met, and impairment would not occur.
Historic Buildings, Structures, and Objects	The park contains a variety of historic buildings, structures and objects that are significant to the historical development of the Chattahoochee River corridor and the greater Atlanta area. Some of these resources are among the last remaining examples of their construction types in the region. Under the No Action Alternative, those resources that have been identified and would continue to be protected at current levels. Under the No Action Alternative, few of the historic buildings, structures and objects in the park would be afforded enhanced protection and preservation treatment. Such treatment is required for National Register listed properties, particularly where stewardship of	The park contains a variety of historic buildings, structures and objects that are significant to the historical development of the Chattahoochee River corridor and the greater Atlanta area. Some of these resources are among the last remaining examples of their construction types in the region. This alternative is estimated to have minor, adverse, long- term effects on historic buildings, structures and objects in the park, since some areas could be impacted during construction and operation of park facilities. The Centralized Access Alternative’s protection and rehabilitation of the resources within the cultural resources zones	The park contains a variety of historic buildings, structures and objects that are significant to the historical development of the Chattahoochee River corridor in the greater Atlanta area. Some of these resources are among the last remaining examples of their construction types in the region. This alternative are estimated to have minor, adverse, long- term effects on historic buildings, structures and objects in the park, since some areas could be impacted during construction and operation of park facilities. However, implementation of this alternative would have a simultaneous beneficial effect on preservation of historic buildings, structures and objects in the park. Protection and rehabilita-	The park contains a variety of historic buildings, structures and objects that are significant to the historical development of the Chattahoochee River Valley and the greater Atlanta area. Some of these resources are among the last remaining examples of their construction types in the region. This alternative is estimated to have moderate, adverse, long- term effects on historic buildings, structures and objects in the park, since some areas could be impacted during construction and operation of park facilities. The Expanded Use Alternative’s protection and rehabilitation of these resources would have a major beneficial effect in preserving them for the future. The potential for adverse effects



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Historic Buildings, Structures, and Objects (Continued)	the resource can be shared with a public or private entity, but no wholesale program would exist for the inventory, protection, and preservation of unevaluated or potentially eligible resources under the No Action Alternative. Implementation of this alternative could lead to adverse, direct and cumulative impacts, as well as potential impairment of historic buildings, structures and objects in the park.	and implementation of a resource management plan and a collections management plan for the park would have major beneficial effects in preserving these resources for the future compared to the No Action Alternative. The Centralized Access Alternative would also provide increased monitoring to protect and preserve historic buildings, structures and objects within the park compared to the No Action Alternative. Historic buildings, structures and objects in the park would be afforded enhanced protection and preservation through the development and implementation of systematic integrated inventory, research, and preservation programs in nine cultural resources zones. Rehabilitation of historic structures would occur, with some historic structures being returned to their original uses and others being rehabilitated and adaptively reused in accordance	tion of these resources would therefore ultimately have a major beneficial effect in preserving them for the future. This would be accomplished through protection as well as implementation of a resource management plan, collections management plan, and increased monitoring, education and staff levels. Under the Focus of Solitude Alternative, the historic buildings, structures and objects in the park would also be afforded enhanced protection and preservation treatment through the development and implementation of systematic integrated inventory, research, and preservation programs in the ten cultural resource zones. Rehabilitation of historic structures would occur, with some historic structures being returned to their original uses and others being rehabilitated and adaptively reused in accordance with park resource values.	associated with implementation of the Expanded Use Alternative – increased construction- related and visitor- related impacts – are considered to be greater than those associated with the No Action Alternative. Under the Expanded Use Alternative, the historic buildings, structures and objects in the park would be afforded protection and preservation treatment through the development and implementation of systematic integrated inventory, research, and preservation programs in the seven cultural resources zones as well as development and implementation of a resource management plan and a collections management plan. Rehabilitation of historic structures would occur, with some historic structures being returned to their original uses and others being rehabilitated and adaptively reused in accordance with park resource values. This would be an a moderate, long- term beneficial effect. Implementation of the Expanded Use Alternative would not cause



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Historic Buildings, Structures, and Objects (Continued)		with park resource values. This would be a major long- term benefit.		impairment of resources or values associated with historic buildings, structures and objects in the park. Environmental Assessments would be prepared for each proposed park facility, and potential adverse impacts from construction of new park facilities would be avoided, or otherwise mitigated for through the Section 106 process. Implementation of a resource management plan would lead to identification and protection of historic buildings, structures and objects in the park during both construction and operation-related park actions. Resources would be protected even though there would increased potential for effects to occur under this alternative. The three criteria for impairment would therefore not be met, and impairment would not occur.
Transportation	An integrated trails system plan would not be completed, and efforts to improve connectivity with the surrounding areas would be minimal under this alternative. Existing transportation problems would continue,	Transportation and traffic problems in the park and surrounding area would continue to increase under any of the alternatives, since traffic and transportation patterns and characteristics are largely	Transportation and traffic problems in the park and surrounding area would continue to increase under any of the alternatives, since traffic and transportation patterns and characteristics are largely controlled by factors	The Expanded Use Alternative would result in the highest level of construction and operation of more facilities, and provide greater access throughout the park corridor in comparison with the No Action Alternative. These



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Transportation (Continued)	with no change in management approaches. The overall direct and cumulative transportation impacts under the No Action Alternative would therefore be moderate, adverse, and long-term.	<p>controlled by factors outside the park. Overall, the Centralized Access Alternative would have moderate, adverse, long-term direct and cumulative effects on transportation and traffic in the park and surrounding area, due to traffic congestion. This would be similar to the effect of the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>The Centralized Access Alternative would have minor, adverse, long-term direct and cumulative impacts on paved and unpaved trails in the park, since an intermediate number of new trails would be constructed in comparison with the No Action Alternative. An integrated trails system plan would be completed, and efforts to improve connectivity with the surrounding areas would be greatly improved under this alternative. This would result in moderate, beneficial, long-term direct and cumulative effects.</p> <p>The Centralized Access Alter-</p>	<p>outside the park. The Focus on Solitude Alternative would have overall moderate, adverse, long-term direct and cumulative adverse effects on transportation and traffic in the park and surrounding area, due to traffic congestion. These effects would be similar to those of the No Action Alternative.</p> <p>The Focus on Solitude Alternative would have negligible, long-term direct and cumulative adverse impacts on paved and unpaved trails in the park, since the smallest number of new trails would be constructed in comparison with the No Action Alternative. An integrated trails system plan would be completed, and efforts to improve connectivity with the surrounding areas would be greatly improved under this alternative. This would result in moderate, beneficial, long-term direct and cumulative effects.</p> <p>The Focus on Solitude Alternative would result in the lowest amount of bicycle use in com-</p>	<p>effects would be offset by implementation of resource and trails management plans. The overall direct effect on transportation would be moderate, adverse, and long-term.</p> <p>Transportation and traffic problems in the park and surrounding area would continue to increase under any of the alternatives, since traffic and transportation patterns and characteristics are largely controlled by factors outside the park. Overall, the Expanded Use Alternative would have moderate, adverse, long-term direct and cumulative effects on transportation and traffic in the park and surrounding area, due to traffic congestion. A number of the roadways that could be impacted by increased activity at various areas of the park are either scheduled for improvement in the near future or are planned for improvement by 2025. In certain areas, roadways that are currently congested are not planned for improvement, but an alternate facility has been planned, such as the Morgan Falls Bridge. These</p>



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Transportation (Continued)		native would result in an intermediate amount of bicycle use of all the alternatives, including the No Action Alternative. The Focus on Solitude Alternative would therefore have minor, adverse, long-term direct and cumulative effects on erosion and water quality degradation related to bicycle use. An integrated trails system plan would also be developed and implemented, and erosion associated with off- road bicycle use would decrease over current levels in the park. This would result in moderate, beneficial, long-term direct and cumulative effects on water quality in the park.	parison with the No Action Alternative. The Focus on Solitude Alternative would therefore have negligible, adverse long-term direct and cumulative effects on erosion and water quality degradation related to bicycle use. An integrated trails system plan would also be developed and implemented, and erosion associated with off- road bicycle use would decrease over current levels in the park. This would result in moderate, beneficial, long- term direct and cumulative effects on water quality in the park.	<p>types of projects could help to relieve localized congestion.</p> <p>The Expanded Use Alternative would have moderate, long- term direct and cumulative adverse impacts on paved and unpaved trails in the park, since the greatest number of new trails would be constructed in comparison with the other alternatives. An integrated trails system plan would be completed, and efforts to improve connectivity with the surrounding areas would be greatly improved under this alternative. This would result in moderate, beneficial, long- term direct and cumulative effects.</p> <p>The Expanded Use Alternative would result in the highest relative amount of bicycle use of all the alternatives in comparison with the No Action Alternative. An integrated trails system plan would also be developed and implemented, and erosion associated with off- road bicycle use would decrease over current levels in the park. This would result in moderate, beneficial,</p>



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Transportation (Continued)				<p>long- term direct and cumulative effects on water quality in the park. The overall effects of the Expanded Use Alternative on erosion and water quality degradation related to bicycle use would therefore be moderate, adverse long- term direct and cumulative.</p> <p>There would be no impairment of resources or values associated with regional and local transportation.</p>
Visitor and Community Values	<p>The No Action Alternative would still continue to provide visitors opportunities for passive and active forms of recreation. This would constitute a minor, beneficial, direct and cumulative long- term effect. However, this alternative would have adverse, major, long- term adverse effects on visitor experience, recreational opportunities, the numbers and types of visitor facilities, and the character of the park, due to the direct and cumulative effect of increased growth in the surrounding area, combined with lack of suitable resource man-</p>	<p>The Centralized Access Alternative would have beneficial or adverse effects on visitor's recreational experience depending on the purpose of their visit. The Centralized Access Alternative would provide a major beneficial effect for visitors who value some degree of developed facilities, while simultaneously being able to also have access to and enjoy natural areas of the park. This alternative would have a minor, adverse, long- term impact on visitors who value solitude and isola-</p>	<p>The Focus on Solitude Alternative would result in construction of fewer facilities than the No Action Alternative. Visitor experiences such as serenity, wildlife observation, solitude, and observing nature's beauty would be enhanced to the greatest degree under this alternative. The maximum amount of pristine river and urban primitive zones in the park would be available to visitors under this alternative. Visitor encounter rates would be relatively low. This alternative would therefore have major, beneficial, long- term direct and</p>	<p>The Expanded Access Alternative would have beneficial or adverse effects on the visitor's recreational experience depending on each person's individual values. The Expanded Access Alternative would provide a major beneficial effect on visitors who value some degree of developed facilities, while simultaneously being able to also have access to and enjoy natural areas of the park. This alternative would have a minor, adverse, long- term, direct effect on visitors who value solitude and isolation since the provision of facilities would draw people to the</p>



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Visitor and Community Values (Continued)	agement plans that are designed to handle the increased levels of visitation.	tion since the provision of facilities would draw people to the hubs. Under the Centralized Access Alternative, visitors could experience solitude in the majority of the park, but would also be provided with other types of experiences and facilities centralized in the hubs. An intermediate number and diversity of park facilities would be available to visitors under this alternative in the hubs in comparison with the No Action Alternative. The more efficient and cohesive working environment that this alternative would provide for park staff, and the dispersed park ranger presence would result in better service to park visitors. Compared to the No Action Alternative, there would be additional types of recreational experiences, centralized access to trailheads and the river, while simultaneously providing the opportunity for isolation and solitude in other areas of the park.	cumulative effects on visitor and community values. However, as the area surrounding the park develops, this experience would be increasingly difficult to obtain, and adverse direct and cumulative, long- term effects on visitor and community values could result. Effective management plans and coordination with local governments would be the key to the successful implementation of this alternative. Overall, this alternative would result in major, long- term beneficial direct and cumulative effects on visitors who value solitude and isolation, and a major long- term adverse direct and cumulative effect on visitors who value more active recreational experiences and supportive facilities.	developed zones. Under the Expanded Access Alternative, visitors could experience solitude in the majority of the park, but would also be provided with other types of experiences and facilities centralized in the developed zones. The highest relative number and diversity of park facilities would be available to visitors under the Expanded Access Alternative in the developed zones in comparison with the No Action Alternative. The more efficient and cohesive working environment that this alternative would provide for park staff, and the dispersed park ranger presence would result in better service to park visitors. Compared to the No Action Alternative, there would be additional types of recreational experiences, centralized access to trailheads and the river, while simultaneously providing the opportunity for isolation and solitude in other areas of the park. Improvement to visitor facilities and facilities used for administration and operations would enhance educational and interpre-



TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Impact Category	Continue Current Management or No Action Alternative	Centralized Access – Preferred Alternative	Focus on Solitude Alternative	Expanded Use Alternative
Visitor and Community Values (Continued)		Improvement to visitor facilities and facilities used for administration and operations would enhance educational and interpretive experiences as compared to the No Action Alternative.		<p>tive experiences as compared to the No Action Alternative. There would be no impairment of resources or values associated with traditional park character and visitor experience.</p> <p>The Expanded Use Alternative would not cause impairment of resources or values associated with visitor and community values.</p>

